

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 01000 130511 Z

11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OPR-02 RSR-01 /099 W

----- 058626

R 121505 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5969

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS HELSINKI 1000

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, FI

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY STUDENT STRIKE

BEGIN SUMMARY. A PEACEFUL UNIVERSITY STUDENT STRIKE SUPPORTING UNIVERSITY REFORM TOOK PLACE YESTERDAY AT ALL FINNISH UNIVERSITIES. THE STRIKE WAS SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL UNION OF FINNISH STUDENTS. STUDENT LEADERS AND ADMINISTRATORS SEE LITTLE CHANCE THAT REFORM BILL WILL BE PASSED BY PARLIAMENT THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY.

1. A PEACEFUL NATIONWIDE UNIVERSITY STUDENT STRIKE IN SUPPORT OF UNIVERSITY REFORM OCCURRED APRIL 11. AFTERNOON CLASSES AT ALL 14 FINNISH UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES WERE CANCELLED FOR SEVERAL HOURS AS STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN MASS MEETINGS TO DISCUSS THE REFORM MEASURE NOW PENDING IN PARLIAMENT. BETWEEN 2,000 AND 3,500 STUDENTS ATTENDED THE MASS MEETINGS.

2. TWO PREVIOUS STUDENT STRIKES ( IN NOVEMBER 1972 AND MARCH 1973) HAD BEEN SPONSORED BY STALINIST STUDENT GROUPS. IN CONTRAST, YESTERDAY'S STRIKE WAS OFFICIALLY SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL UNION OF FINNISH STUDENTS ( SYL) WHICH REPRESENTS STUDENTS OF ALL POLITICAL

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PAGE 02 HELSIN 01000 130511 Z

OPINIONS. EVEN SO, STALINIST STUDENTS PLAYED A LEADING  
ROLE IN ORGANIZING AND CONDUCTING STRIKE ACTIVITIES.

3. UNLIKE PREVIOUS STRIKES, YESTERDAY'S HAD NO MASS  
MARCH TO THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING. ALSO FEWER STUDENTS  
PARTICIPATED.

4. STUDENT LEADERS TOLD THE REPORTING OFFICER THAT THIS  
WOULD PROBABLY BE THE LAST STRIKE ACTION DURING THE  
CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR. THEY ADMITTED THAT STUDENT INTEREST  
IN THE REFORM MEASURE HAS EBBED IN RECENT WEEKS.

5. THE REFORM BILL IS SITTING IN THE GRAND COMMITTEE  
OF THE PARLIAMENT WHERE IT HAS BEEN TABLED SEVERAL  
WEEKS. BOTH STUDENTS AND ADMINISTRATORS PREDICT THAT  
THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE THAT THE BILL WILL BE PASSED THIS  
YEAR.  
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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**To:** COPENHAGEN  
EUR  
OSLO  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
STOCKHOLM  
**Type:** TE  
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